

LifeFacts



A publication of South Dakota Right to Life | Winter 2021 | www.sdRightToLife.org

What Do We Do Now? We Adapt and Move Forward!

By: Dale Bartscher, SDRTL Executive Director

Millions of Americans are adjusting to the “new reality” brought on by the current COVID-19 pandemic coupled with our national political unrest. We could worry and lose sleep over this, but instead let us lean on the words of the Apostle Paul in 2 Corinthians 4:8...”We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair”. Let us likewise heed the words of Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones who rightly said, “faith is a refusal to panic.”

Having been established in 1971, SD Right to Life celebrates our 50th Anniversary this year. Together let us commit to passionately pursuing our Mission of protecting the right of human life from fertilization to natural death.

On December 16, 2020, Vice President Pence hosted the inspiring Life Is Winning event at the White House. During the event he profoundly said, “I truly do believe if all of us continue to do all that we can in the months and the years ahead, we will see the sanctity of life restored to the center of American law in our time. So, do not grow weary in doing well, because in the last four years, we’ve shown when men and women of faith and conviction come together to stand up for the unborn, to speak out for the voiceless, life can win in America. And with your help and God’s help, life will keep on winning in the United States of America.”

Friends, I say to you, by God’s Grace – “Look Forward, Look Forward, The Best Is Yet to Come!”



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President’s Column

By: Debbie Pease, SDRTL President



While 2020 has been a challenging year in many ways, I feel so blessed to live in a State where our leadership works with us to create laws and policies that protect innocent human lives. As we celebrate 50 years of defending the vulnerable and working to change hearts and minds through our educational and legislative efforts, I am so grateful to get to work with our inspiring Executive Director, Dale Bartscher, our dedicated board of directors and the hard-working pro-life warriors who make up our 40 local chapters.

For 50 years, men and women like you have been sacrificially giving your resources, writing letters to the editor, volunteering at fairs and events, caring for those in need, contacting your elected officials, sponsoring ads and billboards and praying for an end to abortion, euthanasia, and assisted suicide.

While we have made tremendous progress, there is still so much to be done. We need you now more than ever.

At this time of year, we especially need you to contact your legislators as pro-life bills make it through the legislative process. Scroll to the bottom of our home page at SDRightToLife.org and sign up for weekly updates and action alerts. Our next big event is The Hour of Reflection and Walk for Life at our State Capitol in Pierre on Sunday, January 31st (see page 8). Please make plans to attend and help us make 2021 the best year yet for life!

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southdakotarighttolife@gmail.com
www.sdRightToLife.org

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Rapid City, SD 57701

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April Entringer

South Dakota Right to Life is a non-profit, non-denominational organization whose philosophy is that all innocent human life is inviolable and is to be guaranteed protection from conception until natural death.

SDRTL Welcomes Governor Kristi Noem's 'Preborn Person Advocate'

Mark Miller serves as General Counsel to Governor Kristi Noem and as a member of the Governor's executive team. He also serves as the Preborn Person Advocate within the Governor's Office. Mark stated that he is "thrilled that working for the Governor allows [him] to partner with SD Right to Life on accomplishing its mission of protecting the preborn."

Before joining the Executive Office of the Governor, he served on the Board of Directors for Americans United for Life (AUL), a Washington, D.C. think tank working to protect life through the courts, state legislatures, and in the hearts and minds of all Americans. Like SD Right to Life, AUL was founded in 1971. Mark also has served on the Boards of Directors for Divine Mercy House and Mary's Shelter, two crisis pregnancy centers in Florida, and during college and law school he served on the Board of Directors for Gainesville Right to Life, an organization that served pregnant mothers and defended life at the public policy level in the early days of the pro-life movement.

Mark attended college and law school at the University of Florida, earning both diplomas with honors.

He clerked for U.S. District Judge Henry Lee Adams, Jr., and Florida state appellate court judge Emerson R. Thompson, Jr. Before joining the Governor's Office, he served as co-counsel at the Supreme Court of the United States in *U.S. Army Corps of Engineers v. Hawkes Company*, and lead counsel for the family landowners in *Weyerhaeuser v. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service*, two important wins for property rights at the nation's High Court. He has dedicated much of his time as an attorney to giving back to his community, volunteering to serve on the boards of directors for a number of charities, including non-profits dedicated to providing legal aid to the poor.

Mark lives in Pierre; he and his wife Mindy, a University of Notre Dame graduate, have four children: Jacob, Meghan, Maria, and Jenny.



SDRTL's 2020 State Convention Is Memorable!

By: Dale Bartscher, SDRTL Executive Director



South Dakota Right to Life held their '49th Annual State Convention' Oct. 2-4, 2020, in Sioux Falls. Amazingly 200+ passionately pro-life men and women of all ages registered and attended the event. Everyone appreciated 'Sioux Falls First Church' and their amazing staff for being our facility host. We highly commend the 'Sioux Falls Area RTL Chapter' as they successfully organized this Convention under the leadership of their

President and SDRTL Board Member, Shane Oien (pictured here with our SDRTL Executive Director Dale Bartscher). The Sunday afternoon 'Life Chain', with #664 pro-life friends participating, stretched for multi-blocks along 41st Street in front of Planned Parenthood. These folks stood their ground as they made the statement loudly and proudly - "Life is Precious". Please mark your calendar as we now look forward to SDRTL's 50th Anniversary State Convention, October 1-3, 2021, in Sioux Falls!



Collaboration is a Key to Saving Lives

By: Beth Spitzer, SDRTL Secretary

“Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him.” Deuteronomy 30:19b – 20a

My name is Beth Spitzer and I am a member of Bethesda Lutheran Church (LCMS), Hot Springs, SD. I am Vice President of Hot Springs Area Right to Life, represent Region 12 on the South Dakota Right to Life (SDRTL) Board and was recently elected Secretary of SDRTL. I am also “Auntie Beth” to a 9-year-old nephew adopted from Russia and an 8-year-old niece adopted from the Philippines. Because of my experience watching my brother and sister-in-law navigate the adoption process, I have become aware of the plight of orphans and the needs of adoptive families and it is something that has strengthened my pro-life position.

South Dakota Right to Life was founded on September 1, 1971, as an affiliate of the National Right to Life Committee, when Kathleen Barthel of Rapid City was asked to serve as the acting director. That means 2021 is the 50th anniversary of SDRTL. Currently the Executive Director of SDRTL is Dale Bartscher and his main office is in Rapid City with a branch office in Sioux Falls. South Dakota Right to Life (SDRTL) works, in recognition of our human right to life in South Dakota, through education, legislation, and service.

- Education--SDRTL, along with its chapters and pro-life allies, strives to educate all people with facts about abortion and other right to life issues. They inform South Dakota residents of elected officials’ voting records, and the views of political candidates, on right to life issues.
- Legislation-- SDRTL promotes pro-life legislation at the state and federal level. They support measures to reduce and eliminate abortion, euthanasia, and other life-ending procedures.
- Service--SDRTL works with local Right to Life Chapters to further their mission through pro-life advocacy in communities throughout the state. They encourage the work of pregnancy care centers and adoption agencies which offer real alternatives to abortion.

What some may not realize is that SDRTL is not affiliated with a particular political party or religious group. You are welcome to join in the defense and protection of human life. Our desire is to work until every human being, from conception until natural death, is valued by society and protected by law.

Many of you probably attend church. The church body that you attend may have their own pro-life organizations. In the Lutheran Church there is Lutherans for Life. I commend the work that they do and enjoy their publications and educational presentations. While having a Lutherans for Life chapter would be a wonderful thing, it is not always feasible. In our community, the opportunity presented itself to create a Right to Life organization and so that is the path that we followed. This allows life affirming people in a community or area to gather together. In our small SD towns, this may be an option for you to consider. There are 40 Right to Life chapters across SD so perhaps there already is one in your area. The bottom line is, saving lives and collaborating with like-minded organizations is one way to make those efforts be successful.

Please reach out to Dale Bartscher at Dale.SDRTL@gmail.com or 605-390-7319 if you have questions about a chapter near you or if you want to start your own chapter in your area. You may also want to visit www.SDRighttoLife.org or find us on Facebook.



Together Let's Engage the 2021 SD Legislature

By: Dale Bartscher, SDRTL Executive Director



SDRTL is recognized as the state's flagship of the pro-life movement. We work through legislation and education to protect innocent human life from abortion, infanticide, assisted suicide, euthanasia and related issues. Thus, we will have 'boots-on-the-ground' during the 96th 2021 Legislative Session in Pierre, SD (January 12 – March 17).

All the pro-life victories we have seen, and will continue to see, are because of the work of all of you, and of the great people whose shoulders we stand on. All of whom understand that life at all stages is precious and deserving of protection. Realizing the value of working together Mother Teresa said: "I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot; together we can do great things."

Knowing this to be true I will once again serve as a registered lobbyist at the State Capitol alongside our SDRTL Board Members and Representatives Dr. Fred Deutsch and Jon Hansen. Together we will represent SDRTL as we support, with your help, appropriate life legislation.

Currently I, along with our SDRTL's Legislative Committee, are considering several pieces of Pro-Life Legislation. I will be utilizing social media (Facebook, Emails, Radio Interviews, etc.) and our website at www.sdrighttolife.org to keep you, our SDRTL Partners, informed as to happenings at the Capitol during this Legislative Session.

To receive 'Weekly Capitol Email Updates' please contact me with your request by going to: Dale.SDRTL@gmail.com or call/text 605-390- 7319.

SDRTL would also appreciate your financial partnership. In doing so you are supporting our presence at the Capitol for the 37-Days of this coming SD Legislative Session. Thank You!

EXECUTIVE PROCLAMATION OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

WHEREAS, 50 years have elapsed since South Dakota Right to Life was originally formed in 1971; and

WHEREAS, South Dakota Right to Life has established itself as the preeminent pro-life organization in South Dakota and for the last 50 years has been saving lives by changing hearts and minds to support and defend life; and

WHEREAS, South Dakota Right to Life has helped provide tangible support to pregnant mothers and their children through their educational efforts at venues large and small; and

WHEREAS, South Dakota Right to Life has been instrumental through their legislative efforts in protecting unborn children through the prohibition of partial-birth and sex selection abortions, protecting minors from obtaining abortions without parental consent, ensuring a pregnant mother's right to know essential facts about abortion procedures, ensuring that a pregnant mother seeking an abortion may view an ultrasound and hear the heartbeat of her unborn child, and consistently fighting to strengthen South Dakota's statutes that regulate abortion and protect against assisted suicide and euthanasia; and

WHEREAS, elective abortions have decreased in South Dakota from a recorded high in the early 1980's of nearly 8,000 to the most recent but unacceptable number of 414 in 2019; and

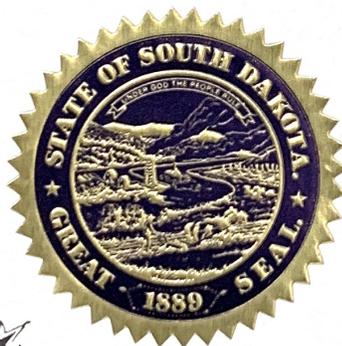
WHEREAS, forty-eight years after the infamous Roe v. Wade decision by the U.S. Supreme Court, South Dakota Right to Life continues their efforts to change hearts and minds, working by God's grace toward the day when the dignity of every human life is respected and protected from conception to natural death.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, KRISTI NOEM, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim January, 2021, as

SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE MONTH

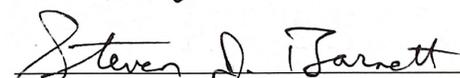
in South Dakota.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-first Day of December in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty.




Kristi Noem
Governor of South Dakota

ATTEST:


Steven J. Barnett
Secretary of State

SDRTL Board of Directors

“Any committee is only as good as the most knowledgeable, determined and vigorous person on it. There must be somebody who provides the flame.” - Lady Bird Johnson

Dr. Fred Deutsch has been the person - PROVIDING THE FLAME - these past six years serving as the SDRTL's Board President! On October 3, 2020, the torch was passed to our newly-elected President, Debbie Pease. The Leadership of SDRTL 'was and is' in good hands!

SDRTL'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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- Dr. Russ Enns
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- Doug Schueller
- Beth Spitzer, Secretary
- Krystal Stuwe
- Mary Unterbrunner
- Pastor Craig Werling

SDRTL'S STAFF

- Dale Bartscher, Executive Director

Newly Added Board of Directors



Sue Rausch and her husband, Shannon, live in the Hoven area and own a cow/calf and grain farm in partnership with Shannon's family. They are blessed with 7 children, 4 married, and 3 beautiful grandchildren. Her faith is her motivation. God has preserved Sue's life since she was conceived so she clearly states, "How can I not spend it trying to flourish the life of every human being He has created? I wish to thank everyone who has been a great pro-life example to me, including my children." Now, our REGION 9 Director.

Krystal Stuwe is a Registered Nurse from Hoven, SD and currently works in Bowdle for a family practice clinic. The majority of her nursing career has been in labor and delivery, women's health and prenatal care/teaching. Krystal has been married to Lance for 20 years and they have eight children, one with disabilities. Both her work in women's health and the gift of her family, have profoundly shaped her perspective on pro-life issues. The biggest lesson she has learned is those people our culture would deem the most insignificant, are often the most gifted and able to change hearts. Now, our REGION 9 Director.



Dr. Leslie Heinemann was born and raised on a farm in northern Moody County. He attended country school and graduated from Flandreau Public High School. He graduated from Augustana University and Loyola University School of Dentistry. He began practicing dentistry in Flandreau in 1981 and established a second dental clinic in Dell Rapids in 2000. He recently retired, both from dentistry and the legislature, serving 6 years in the South Dakota House of Representatives, the last two of which were in a leadership position. Now, our REGION 3 Director.



Being an Example

By: Kassidy Peters, SDRTL Youth Outreach Coordinator



This past year has given an important opportunity to consider what it means to be pro-life. We are advocates for the sanctity of all lives and another opportunity lies in being a true example to that. There are so many lives we can touch and there is no person too young or too old that can make a difference. The elderly, homeless, hungry, and orphans are just a few examples. I found a quote that says, “True love, empathy, and service happens in real presence.” We can genuinely love and help people when we surround ourselves with others. I want to challenge us all to look around and extend an arm to those who need it most. In doing so, we are showing exactly what it means to be pro-life.

Coming up, is our annual Walk for Life and Hour of Reflection at our South Dakota State Capitol in Pierre on January 31st. The Walk for Life begins at 12:00 PM while the Hour of Reflection begins at 2:00 PM. I hope to see all the youth at these two events! It will be a great day of coming together and advocating for pro-life.

Youth Essays Inspire Hope

By: Debbie Pease, SDRTL President

Kudos to the eighty-two students who participated in our 2020 South Dakota Right to Life Essay Contest. Your thoughtful and passionate writing gives us great hope for our future and inspires us to continue our efforts to protect our most vulnerable brothers and sisters. A huge thank you to the teachers and parents who encouraged students to enter our contest and to the judges who had the very difficult job of choosing our eleven winners. Award checks have gone out and the winning essays can be found in their entirety at SDRightToLife.org (under the Essay Contest tab). We look forward to hearing the first-place winner in each division read their essays at The Hour of Reflection at the State Capitol in Pierre on January 31st. Congratulations to our winners.

Junior Division Winners (Grades 7-9)

Sophie Schwebach of Dell Rapids (9th grade) - 1st place

Mallory Gant of Sioux Falls (7th grade) - 2nd place

Shannon Connor of Rapid City (9th grade) - 3rd place

Ada Rodgers of Piedmont (9th grade) - 4th place

Danika Deuter of Dell Rapids (8th grade) - 5th place

Lucy Vargas of Dell Rapids (8th grade) - 5th place

Senior Division Winners (Grades 10-12)

Josalyn Wipf of Huron (11th grade) - 1st place

Allison Causey of Rapid City (10th grade) - 2nd place

Gavin Holt of Baltic (12th grade) - 3rd place

Madelynn Holzer of Rapid City (11th grade) - 4th place

Millie Selfridge of Rapid City (10th grade) - 5th place

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 12 – March 17: SDRTL Lobbying at the 2021 SD Legislative Session (Pierre, SD)

January 17: Black Hills Area ‘Roe v Wade Memorial Service’ at the Open Bible Church at 2:00 pm MST, (Rapid City, SD)

January 20: SDRTL Executive Director speaking at ‘Catacomb Caucus’ at 7:00 am CST (Pierre, SD)

January 22: 48th Anniversary of Roe V. Wade

January 22: Roe V. Wade Candlelight Vigil @ St. Anthony’s Catholic Church at 4:00 pm MST (Hot Springs, SD)

January 29: March for Life (Washington, DC)

January 31: Sanctity of Human Life ‘Walk for Life’ at 12 noon CST; and ‘Hour of Reflection’ at 2:00 pm CST, (Pierre, SD)

February 17 - March 28: 40-Days for Life Spring Campaign (Sioux Falls)

March 26-28: Booth at Black Hills Home Builders Show (Rapid City, SD)

April 16-17: SDRTL Booth at the Northern Plains Evangelistic Association Leadership Conference (Spearfish, SD)

May 7-8: Booth at the Christian Homeschool Conference (Sioux Falls, SD)

May 9: Mother’s Day!

June 25-26: National Right to Life Convention (NRLConvention.com)

October 1-3: SDRTL 50th State Convention (Sioux Falls, SD)

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AVERA TRANSPLANT INSTITUTE.....	DALE AND JAN BARTSCHER
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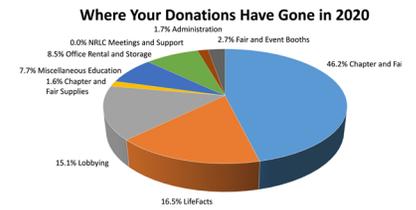
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DR. JONATHAN SCHAFFER.....	VERMILLION AREA RIGHT TO LIFE

Where Your Donations are Going

By: *Spencer Cody, SDRTL Treasurer*

As 2020 comes to a close, let us take a look at how South Dakota Right to Life has worked to ensure that the most is made of every contribution that we have received and hope that you will partner or continue to partner with us as a sustaining member in 2021. In 2020 roughly 46% of your donation has gone toward providing staff in support of chapters, pro-life outreach, and coordinating booths and exhibits at fairs and other events. Lobbying for pro-life legislation each session in Pierre has taken up another 15.1% of our budget this year. The LifeFacts that you receive goes to 16,000 households and makes up more than 16% of this year's budget. A remaining 7.7% of donations are spent on miscellaneous education outreach. Only 1.7% of your donation is being spent on administration of membership mailings, postage, and office supplies.



Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, SDRTL did not attend any National Right to Life meetings or conventions this year keeping our spending on such items at zero. Every dollar that you donate gets fully utilized in the most meaningful and impactful way possible. Thank you so much for supporting South Dakota Right to Life!

Cut & mail to: SDRTL, 1107 Mt. Rushmore Rd, Suite 1-B, Rapid City, SD 57701

Name _____ Mailing Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ Email _____

My Special Gift in Support of Life: \$ _____

My Sustaining Gift in Support of Life (check one)

- Bronze: \$10/mo. or \$120/yr.
 Silver: \$25/mo. or \$300/yr.
 Gold: \$50/mo. or \$600/yr.
 Platinum: \$100/mo. or \$1200/yr.
 Titanium: \$250/mo. or \$3000/yr.
 Diamond: \$500/mo. or \$6000/yr.
 Amount of your choosing \$ _____/mo.

*Due to IRS regulations donations to SDRTL and the SDRTL PAC are not deductible. If you wish to make a tax-deductible donation, then please donate to the SDRTL Education Trust Fund. A donation may yet also be given "In Memory of" or "In Honor of" of a loved one upon request.

I would like to donate by: (check one)

- Online bank transfer or Bill Pay (I will contact my bank for this option)
 Credit Card- (costs us 3% of your gift)
 Card Number: _____ Card Month: _____
 Card Year: _____ Card CVV Number: _____
 Check (Make out to either - SDRTL, non tax deductible; or SDRTL Ed Trust Fund, tax deductible)
 How Often May We Anticipate This Donation? _____ Once; _____ Monthly

This Donation is made... (check one if it applies)

- "In Memory of": _____
 "In Honor of": _____

If you wish to donate electronically please visit SDrighttolife.org

48th Annual Hour of Reflection

“The Sanctity of Human Life”

Sunday, January 31, 2021

2:00 p.m. (CST)

State Capitol Rotunda, Pierre, SD

Master of Ceremonies

Dale Bartscher
Executive Director
SD Right to Life
Rapid City, SD



Keynote Speaker

Josh Haeder
State Treasurer
Pierre, SD



Guest Speaker

Dr. Pat Castle
Life Runners
President & Founder
Omaha, NE



Invited Guest Speakers: Governor Kristi Noem & US Senator John Thune

Special Music – Riggs Chamber Choir, Refreshments, SDRTL’s Essay Contest Winners



– Walk for Life –

Sunday, January 31, 2021

12:00 - 1:00 p.m. (CST)

State Capitol, Pierre, SD

